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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/606,628 | 06/26/2003 | Junichi Yamagishi | F-7876 | 5083 |

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EXAMINER

PRAKASAM, RAMYA G

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3651

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rasmussen (U.S. Patent No. 5,876,275).

Rasmussen discloses an apparatus for supporting objects to identify, comprising:

- ☐ A belt configured to transport the objects through a photographing section (See Column 1, lines 14-19); and
- ☐ A linear material (78) stretched across the photographing section in the object transporting direction (See Figure 6C);
- ☐ Each of the objects transported by the belt to the photographing section being supported between the belt and the linear material and photographed from the linear material side (See Column 3, lines 51-55).
- ☐ A frame (78) configured to be detachably attached to the photographing section and having a photographing window across which the linear material is stretched (See Column 3, lines 57-58);
- ☐ Upstream and downstream guides arranged at upstream and downstream sides of the photographing window, respectively, configured to support the linear material (See Figure 6C);

Art Unit: 3651

- ❑ A slide face formed at least on the upstream guide, configured to face the belt (78, See Figure 7); and
- ❑ a recess formed in the slide face (90, 92), configured to receive the linear material,
- ❑ each of the objects transported by the belt to the photographing section being guided along the slide face on the upstream side of the photographing window toward the linear material and belt so that the object is supported between the linear material and the belt and transported thereby (See Figure 6C).
- ❑ Wherein the objects are flat and have disk shapes of different diameters (See Column 3, lines 64-67 and Column 4, lines 1-4); and
- ❑ A plurality of the belts and linear materials are arranged in parallel with one another with the linear materials being distanced from one another to support and transport the objects of different diameters between the belts and the linear materials (See Figure 6C).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramya G. Prakasam whose telephone number is (571) 272-6011. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:30am-6pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on (571) 272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3651

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

8/7/06
RGP


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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER